

LITERATURE.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

J. S. Osgood & Co. has just issued in a neat volume "Pike County Ballads, and Other Pieces," by John Hay, and separately, with illustrations by Sol Eytinge, "Jim Bludso," and "Little Breches," a couple of pieces which have gone the rounds of the newspapers, and which have obtained considerable favor with a large portion of the public. These two pieces are the best of Colonel Hay's dialect poems, "Banty Tim" and "The Mystery of Gilgal" being decidedly inferior to them in every particular. Colonel Hay has been accused of being an imitator of Mr. Bret Harte, but the accusation is not necessarily a reproach. Mr. Harte has shown how distinctively American subjects can be treated in an attractive style, and their latent poetry developed, and any really able attempts in the same direction are deserving of encouragement. American poetry and fiction, if they are to be anything but weak reflections of European performances, must smell of the soil. The soil cultivated by Messrs. Harte and Hay is, however, particularly rank and unwholesome, and the difference between the two writers is that the former knows how to extract purity from impurity, and that the latter does not. Mr. Harte can treat a coarse subject in a refined manner, but in Colonel Hay's best efforts the coarseness is so prominent that it repels readers who are at all fastidious. The ballad of "Jim Bludso," for instance, possesses extraordinary merits, and it more than deserves the favorable comparison made between it and Browning's "Herne Riel" by one of the London weekly reviews. As a work of art it is entitled to take a higher rank than Browning's poem, but neither Browning, plain spoken as he is at times, nor Bret Harte would have treated the same subject as offensively as Hay has done. This poem and the other Pike county ballads should not be condemned entirely on account of their coarseness, but it is the duty of their critics to protest against their defects in this respect, and to urge the author to put a proper restraint upon himself. Colonel Hay's dialect pieces, meritorious as they are, do not possess the peculiar charm that makes those of Mr. Harte so attractive, but his poems proper have a more genuine ring to them than those of the last-named writer. Those which are published in the volume before us under the titles of "Wanderlieder" and "New and Old" are above the average of reasonably good newspaper and magazine poems, which cannot be said of those of Mr. Harte.

J. S. Osgood & Co. have also just published the "Condensed Novels" of Bret Harte, with illustrations by Sol Eytinge. In these capital burlesques the fine humor of Mr. Harte is displayed to signal advantage. He hits off most amusingly the characteristics of Charles Reade, Disraeli, Charles Lever, Dumas, Bulwer, Dickens, Marryat, Wilkie Collins, Victor Hugo, and other well-known modern writers, and these "Condensed Novels" will be hugely enjoyed by all who are familiar with the subjects burlesqued. Where all are so good, it is difficult to pick out any as being the best, but "Handsome is as Handsome Does," by Ch-s R-de; "The Ninety-five Guardsmen," by Al-x-d-r D-m-s; "The Dweller in the Threshold," by Sir Ed-d L-t-n B-l-w-r; and "The Haunted Man," by Ch-r-s D-ck-ns, take our fancy particularly.

The above-named works are for sale in this city by Claxton, Remsen & Haffelinger. "An Old Fashioned Boy," by Martha Farquharson, published by Evans, Stoddard & Co., follows in the footsteps of Miss Alcott's "Old Fashioned Girl," and the author's idea has been set up before the boy of the period a model worthy of imitation. The book is entertaining, and the hero, "Fred Landon," will find many friends among boys of the right sort.

"Xenophon" is the eighth volume of the capital series of critical, descriptive, and explanatory treatises in course of publication by J. B. Lippincott & Co. under the title of "Ancient Classics for English Readers." This volume is by Sir Alexander Grant Burt, LL. D., Principal of the University of Edinburgh, and it will give those who wish to know something of the famous historian of the retreat of the ten thousand Greeks an excellent idea of the story told by Xenophon, of his style, and of his philosophical opinions. This and the other issues of the series deserve to be in every library, and they will be found useful by classical scholars as well as by those who have neither time nor opportunity to study the classics for their themselves.

"Beechcroft" is the last issue of the uniform edition of Miss Yonge's novels now in course of publication by D. Appleton & Co. It is a pleasant story, and, like all the writings of the author, it has a moral aim which will commend it to the favorable notice of parents and others who are fastidious about the quality of the literary food supplied to young people under their care. For sale by Porter & Coates.

T. B. Peterson & Brothers have just published a cheap edition of "Basil; or, The Crossed Path," an entertaining novel from the pen of Wilkie Collins.

"The Village School Choir," published by J. P. Skelly & Co., is a pretty little religious story, translated from the German by Anna B. Cooke.

John Pennington & Son have issued a pamphlet containing analyses and descriptions of celebrated musical works, by Albert G. Ererick. With one or two exceptions these articles were prepared by Mr. Ererick to accompany the programmes of concerts, and their publication is due to a general desire on the part of the music-loving public to possess them in a collected shape. They are historical, biographical, descriptive, and analytic, and they cannot but prove interesting to all persons of musical taste.

"Godey's Lady's Book for June is, as usual, profusely illustrated, and is filled with interesting stories, sketches, and poems, which will be appreciated by its fair readers.

SECRETS UNEARTHED BY THE CONVENT.

A Terrible French Convent—Three Idiot Nuns Confined in Louthsome Cages—A Mysterious Great Vault Not Discovered—Provisions in Abundance—The Nuns Begging from the Starving Paris Poor.

The reigning scandal of the day is the affair of the Convent of Pieps. So highly roused has public indignation been by the supposed discovery of atrocities committed within those jealous walls that the people have been excluded until the investigations of justice shall be complete. I managed, however, to penetrate within the precincts by attaching myself to the cottage of an English friend, who was journeying thither under special official orders, to investigate the case of an English sister named Garret. In the Rue de Pieps, near Mazas Prison, stand two large buildings, each surrounded by high walls, above which may be seen green trees at intervals. The one is an establishment of the Jesuits, the other the convent of the White Nuns. The Jesuit Brothers escaped at the first sign of approaching danger, but the sisters held their own until forced into cabs and conveyed to the cells of St. Lazare, there to await the results of a judicial inquiry into certain matters that are deemed suspicious. Arrived at the gate of the convent, we were obliged to pass through a crowd of angry people who demanded an instant permission to enter, and who were as persistently swept back by a group of National Guards—wre, however, being admitted inside the door under cover of the official pass and signatures. In the courtyard, under the shade of some fine trees, a few guards were playing bowls in the Jesuits' alley, and making up to one of them whose cap displayed tokens of authority, we mentioned our business, and begged permission to see what was to be seen. Our friend was very civil, accepted a cigar, and marched us off to the rounds. He pointed out to us the fact, of which there certainly could exist no kind of doubt, that the two buildings communicated one with the other by means of an old door, which still exists at the back of a stable, as well as by other apertures in the garden wall, which show signs of having been recently closed up. The Jesuits' garden is a most beautiful one, occupying a space of some twelve acres, laid out with care, and furnished with fruit trees of every description, pruned and trained after the latest horticultural designs. There are

WONDROUSLY INGENUOUS PLANS, too, for irritating the beds; forcing pits and hot-houses, and long alleys with vines trained over them. Through the old door above-mentioned, we passed into the Sisters' garden, equally large and beautiful, though not kept with the same care. In the centre stands a gymnasium, I suppose for the use of the children brought up under the sisters' care, and further on their cemetery, a lovely spot, where, under the heavy shade of ancient cypresses, lie bearers of some of the most ancient names in France—"Prince of Salina-Kyrborg immolated under the Terror, aged 43;" "Rochefontaine," "De Noailles," "Montmorency," the great Lafayette, the whole family of the Balleynard-Perigord, and legions of princes and princesses. Some of the vaults have been opened, and many lead coffins, half-covered with

ROTTING VELVET AND GOLD LACE, lie exposed to the light of day, awaiting an examination at the hands of the Minister of Justice. At the extreme end of the garden, however, are the three little conical huts, side by side, resembling white ants' nests, which have been the cause of so much excitement and judicial inquiry. When the convent was occupied by the National Guards these little huts were tenanted each by an old woman, enclosed in a wooden cage, like a chicken's pen, the three buildings being similar in size and construction, six feet square by seven in height, with a slate roof, through which daylight was visible, while the three old women were

ALL HOPELESS IDIOTS. The Lady Superior has kept her lips resolutely closed up to the present time, but admitted, when first questioned, that the three sufferers had lived in their hideous prison for nine years, in an atmosphere of stifling heat throughout the summer, and half-frozen with cold throughout the winter; "but," she added, "they were idiots when they came."

The conductor of the inquiry replied that, if such were the case, it was illegal to have admitted them to the convent at all, and that, even supposing them to have been admitted, the place where they were found was not a fit dwelling place for a dog. A key was discovered among their papers, labelled "key of the great vault;" but where this great vault may be has not yet been found out. The Superior and her nuns keep a uniform and persistent silence upon the point: excavations have been made at different points in the garden, and under the high altar of the chapel, but hitherto without effect. At one end of the nuns' garden stands an isolated building, in which were found mattresses furnished with straps and buckles, also two

IRON CORSETS, SKULL-CAP, AND A BACK turned by a cog-wheel, evidently intended for bending back the body with force. The Superior explained that these were orthopedic instruments—superficial falsehood. The mattresses and straps struck me as being easily accounted for; I have seen such things used in French midwifery and in cases of violent delirium; but the rack and its adjuncts are justly objects of grave suspicion, for they imply a use of brutal force which no disease at present known would justify. On our way back through the gardens our guide made a detour in order to show us a

GREAT SUBTERRANEAN WAREHOUSE, where an enormous quantity of potatoes was stored, as well as barrels full of salt pork, while in the yard hard by lay grunting a fat pig. "Look at this!" cried our National Guard indignantly. "Look at these stores, which might have helped to feed the starving poor of the arrondissement during our six months' siege, and think that these people were begging from door to door the whole town for money to buy broken victuals for their pensioners!" Arrived at the entrance gate, our guide nudged me, telling me in whispers to look at the old woman who was wandering about, followed by a younger one, stooping from time to time to pick up a leaf or rub her hands with sand and gravel. "That is Sour Bernardine," he said, "one of the three prisoners of the wooden cages. She is the most sane in mind of the three, and we keep her here under the care of one of our wives to cheer her up.

ONLY 20, SHE LOOKS 70. "The other two have been removed, as they were rendered violent by the crowd and charge of scene. I passed close to her and even looked up—a soft, pale face, with sunken eyes shaded by the fringe of a great cap. She looked at me dazedly, without taking any notice, and stooping again, filled her hands with refuse coffee grounds, which she put into her mouth until prevented by her com-

panion. Without showing the least prejudice in the matter, I think I can safely say that the ladies now shut up at St. Lazare will find it no easy matter to clear themselves of blame; for, though there are doubtless many suspicious circumstances that may be explained away, there are also hard facts which will remain hard facts in spite of the most elaborate attempts at refutation.

DIVORCE NOTICES.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, May 10, 1871. NOTICE.—To EDWARD BARTINE, late of the County of Philadelphia. In obedience to an order of publication to me directed, you are hereby notified to be and appear in the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of Philadelphia, on the first MONDAY of June next, to show cause, if any you have, why ALMIRA BARTINE should not be divorced from the bonds of matrimony entered into with you, according to the prayer of her petition filed in said court. 512 law4w WILLIAM R. LEEDS, Sheriff.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, May 10, 1871. NOTICE.—To ANNE HOBBS, late of the County of Philadelphia. In obedience to an order of publication to me directed, you are hereby notified to be and appear in the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of Philadelphia, on the first MONDAY of June next, to show cause, if any you have, why ALMIRA BARTINE should not be divorced from the bonds of matrimony entered into with you, according to the prayer of her petition filed in said court. 512 law4w WILLIAM R. LEEDS, Sheriff.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, May 10, 1871. NOTICE.—To GEORGE R. HOLLOWELL, late of the County of Philadelphia. In obedience to an order of publication to me directed, you are hereby notified to be and appear in the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of Philadelphia, on the first MONDAY of June next, to show cause, if any you have, why THOMAS D. CANDY should not be divorced from the bonds of matrimony entered into with you, according to the prayer of her petition filed in said court. 512 law4w WILLIAM R. LEEDS, Sheriff.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, May 10, 1871. NOTICE.—To ANN CANDY, late of the County of Philadelphia. In obedience to an order of publication to me directed, you are hereby notified to be and appear in the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of Philadelphia, on the first MONDAY of June next, to show cause, if any you have, why THOMAS D. CANDY should not be divorced from the bonds of matrimony entered into with you, according to the prayer of her petition filed in said court. 512 law4w WILLIAM R. LEEDS, Sheriff.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, May 10, 1871. NOTICE.—To ALFRED BORDEN, late of the County of Philadelphia. In obedience to an order of publication to me directed, you are hereby notified to be and appear in the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of Philadelphia, on the first MONDAY of June next, to show cause, if any you have, why MARY McLAUGHLIN should not be divorced from the bonds of matrimony entered into with you, according to the prayer of her petition filed in said court. 512 law4w WILLIAM R. LEEDS, Sheriff.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, May 10, 1871. NOTICE.—To BERNARD McLAUGHLIN, late of the County of Philadelphia. In obedience to an order of publication to me directed, you are hereby notified to be and appear in the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of Philadelphia, on the first MONDAY of June next, to show cause, if any you have, why MARY McLAUGHLIN should not be divorced from the bonds of matrimony entered into with you, according to the prayer of her petition filed in said court. 512 law4w WILLIAM R. LEEDS, Sheriff.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, May 10, 1871. NOTICE.—To DEWITT M. OGDEN, late of the County of Philadelphia. In obedience to an order of publication to me directed, you are hereby notified to be and appear in the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of Philadelphia, on the first MONDAY of June next, to show cause, if any you have, why HARRIET A. OGDEN should not be divorced from the bonds of matrimony entered into with you, according to the prayer of her petition filed in said court. 512 law4w WILLIAM R. LEEDS, Sheriff.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, May 10, 1871. NOTICE.—To THOMAS J. PELKY, late of the County of Philadelphia. In obedience to an order of publication to me directed, you are hereby notified to be and appear in the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of Philadelphia, on the first MONDAY of June next, to show cause, if any you have, why PHEBE J. PELKY should not be divorced from the bonds of matrimony entered into with you, according to the prayer of her petition filed in said court. 512 law4w WILLIAM R. LEEDS, Sheriff.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, May 10, 1871. NOTICE.—To JOHN FINLEY, late of the County of Philadelphia. In obedience to an order of publication to me directed, you are hereby notified to be and appear in the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of Philadelphia, on the first MONDAY of June next, to show cause, if any you have, why CATHARINE FINLEY should not be divorced from the bonds of matrimony entered into with you, according to the prayer of her petition filed in said court. 512 law4w WILLIAM R. LEEDS, Sheriff.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, May 10, 1871. NOTICE.—To LEAVITT J. LIBBY, late of the County of Philadelphia. In obedience to an order of publication to me directed, you are hereby notified to be and appear in the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of Philadelphia, on the first MONDAY of June next, to show cause, if any you have, why CHARLES EYERHART should not be divorced from the bonds of matrimony entered into with you, according to the prayer of her petition filed in said court. 512 law4w WILLIAM R. LEEDS, Sheriff.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, May 10, 1871. NOTICE.—To JOSEPH HARRISON, late of the County of Philadelphia. In obedience to an order of publication to me directed, you are hereby notified to be and appear in the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of Philadelphia, on the first MONDAY of June next, to show cause, if any you have, why SARAH J. HARRISON should not be divorced from the bonds of matrimony entered into with you, according to the prayer of her petition filed in said court. 512 law4w WILLIAM R. LEEDS, Sheriff.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, May 10, 1871. NOTICE.—To EDWARD F. BROTHIER, late of the County of Philadelphia. In obedience to an order of publication to me directed, you are hereby notified to be and appear in the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of Philadelphia, on the first MONDAY of June next, to show cause, if any you have, why ESHER A. BROTHIER should not be divorced from the bonds of matrimony entered into with you, according to the prayer of her petition filed in said court. 512 law4w WILLIAM R. LEEDS, Sheriff.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, May 10, 1871. NOTICE.—To ROSE C. LINK, late of the County of Philadelphia. In obedience to an order of publication to me directed, you are hereby notified to be and appear in the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of Philadelphia, on the first MONDAY of June next, to show cause, if any you have, why ESHER A. BROTHIER should not be divorced from the bonds of matrimony entered into with you, according to the prayer of her petition filed in said court. 512 law4w WILLIAM R. LEEDS, Sheriff.

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DIVORCE NOTICES.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, May 10, 1871. NOTICE.—To WILLIAM R. BAKER, late of the County of Philadelphia. In obedience to an order of publication to me directed, you are hereby notified to be and appear in the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of Philadelphia, on the first MONDAY of June next, to show cause, if any you have, why EMMA L. BAKER should not be divorced from the bonds of matrimony entered into with you, according to the prayer of her petition filed in said court. 512 law4w WILLIAM R. LEEDS, Sheriff.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, May 10, 1871. NOTICE.—To JAMES W. SCHILLING, late of the County of Philadelphia. In obedience to an order of publication to me directed, you are hereby notified to be and appear in the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of Philadelphia, on the first MONDAY of June next, to show cause, if any you have, why ALMIRA BARTINE should not be divorced from the bonds of matrimony entered into with you, according to the prayer of her petition filed in said court. 512 law4w WILLIAM R. LEEDS, Sheriff.

LEGAL NOTICES.

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA. Notice is hereby given to all persons interested that the Honorable the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of Philadelphia, on the first MONDAY of June next, at 10 o'clock A. M., for hearing applications for the following CHARTERS OF INCORPORATION, and unless objections be filed thereto the same will be allowed, viz:—

- 1. The Fairmount Microscopical Society.
2. The United States Building and Loan Association.
3. The United States Building and Loan Association.
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LEGAL NOTICES.

CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA, SS.—The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to the Sheriff of Philadelphia County, greeting.—We command you, as before we did, that you summon THOMAS McHARRY, late of your county, so that he be and appear before our Judges at Philadelphia, at our Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of Philadelphia, on the first MONDAY of June next, to show cause, if any you have, why EMMA L. BAKER should not be divorced from the bonds of matrimony entered into with you, according to the prayer of her petition filed in said court. 512 law4w WILLIAM R. LEEDS, Sheriff.

CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA, SS.—The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to the Sheriff of Philadelphia County, greeting.—We command you, as before we did, that you summon WILLIAM BORGANS, late of your county, so that he be and appear before our Judges at Philadelphia, at our Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of Philadelphia, on the first MONDAY of June next, to show cause, if any you have, why ALMIRA BARTINE should not be divorced from the bonds of matrimony entered into with you, according to the prayer of her petition filed in said court. 512 law4w WILLIAM R. LEEDS, Sheriff.

CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA, SS.—The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to the Sheriff of Philadelphia County, greeting.—We command you, as before we did, that you summon WALTER GNOLA, late of your county, so that he be and appear before our Judges at Philadelphia, at our Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of Philadelphia, on the first MONDAY of June next, to show cause, if any you have, why ALMIRA BARTINE should not be divorced from the bonds of matrimony entered into with you, according to the prayer of her petition filed in said court. 512 law4w WILLIAM R. LEEDS, Sheriff.

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